

In the Claims

Amend claims 9, 13, and 14 as follows:

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9. A method of manufacturing a transmission line coupler comprising the steps of:

manufacturing a plurality of substrate layers;

B₂ etching at least five metal layers, comprising a first metal layer, a second metal layer, a third metal layer, a fourth metal layer, and a fifth metal layer, disposed on at least a subset of said plurality of substrate layers, wherein said second metal layer is part of a segment of said transmission line coupler and is between said first metal layer and said third metal layer, said third metal layer is between said second metal layer and said fourth metal layer, and said fourth metal layer is part of another segment of said transmission line coupler and is between said third metal layer and said fifth metal layer;

connecting said third metal layer to said first metal layer and said fifth metal layer to form groundplanes such that the first metal layer forms a first groundplane, the third metal layer forms a second groundplane, and the fifth metal layer forms a third groundplane; and

connecting the coupler segment disposed on said second metal layer to the coupler segment disposed on said fourth metal layer by a transmission line structure to form said coupler.

B₃ 13. The method of manufacturing a coupler of claim 9, wherein said transmission line coupler has a frequency of operation between approximately 0.5 GHz and approximately 6.0 GHz.

14. The method of manufacturing a coupler of claim 9, wherein said transmission line coupler is a wideband coupler.